

about

eMerge Gallery

eMerge Gallery, is the public face of the School of Creative Arts [SoCA] at James Cook University, Townsville campus.

eMerge is a purpose built gallery primarily designed to be utilised as a teaching aid for the benefit of students, emerging from the school's New Media Arts program. The gallery also seeks to attract SoCA staff and artists from the wider tropical community to develop and exhibit art and design works with an emphasis on excellence as a result of research. It is undoubtedly the best equipped gallery for the display of new media art in Townsville.

The Gallery Director is supported by an Advisory Committee of the school's permanent staff who are working to reinforce five main annual events: BoSS [Best of Student Show]; Screengrab [International New Media Arts Award]; and SoCA Staff, Alumni and Honours' shows.

Hampered by the tyranny of distance from the city centre and opening hours restricted to the working week, eMerge Gallery is a secret we are bursting to share.



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eMerge Gallery
Building 300 Townsville Campus

SWEAT

School of Creative Arts' Staff Exhibition



17 September- 4 October 2013

eMerge Gallery

creative sweat

When the sun shines intensely on us, we sweat. The body cools itself. This is nature's clever thermoregulation. Sweat is also the corollary of creation. Creation is a surprisingly physical process. At times it is just as physical as running or playing tennis. Creators are certainly not couch potatoes. They may put their feet up but their muscles are arched and tense in concentration when they work. At the screen, in front of an easel, behind the photographic instrument, on the work bench or table - wherever creation happens - concentration demands a lot of the creator.

Concentration is a tough mistress. It insists that we remain still in thought for hours at a time. Try that in a gym! You will quickly realise just how much that intense concentration demands of the human body. Muscles tighten, backs arch, and posture is frozen in one place. The imagination is remarkably corporeal. Thinking affects our breathing and our respiratory system. The body stiffens and braces as we try to form ideas and resolve artistic problems. The how and the why of creation is very strenuous.

No wonder then that the creator sweats. Pearls of water form on the forehead and in the middle of the back. Palms get wet. This is not the hard labour of the parchment farm. The creator is not an inmate on a chain gang in swampy places and tropical climes. This is not the brutal romance of an unrelenting arduous grind whipped on by brutal gang bosses. The sweat of creation occurs in much more congenial settings. The slave driver is the inner daimon who cries out: don't stop. Don't stop till the problem is solved and the composition is resolved.

To keep going under these conditions requires physical as well as mental discipline. The act of creation causes tension as the body refuses to relax until its work is done. When it finally arrives though, relaxation is pure joy. It is a

state of ecstasy that follows the hard labour of creation. It is in this rapturous moment that art originally emerged. For art begins as a celebration of the release of human beings from suffering. The irony, though, is that the artist must suffer in order for the work to be created in the first place. The work that revels in the release of humankind from suffering is itself a function of a self-imposed suffering. The artist's physical tension is an unavoidable prelude to the artistic resolution that serves as an icon of human relaxation.

In the concert hall and gallery, or with our headphones on and our eyes glued to a screen, we rejoice and revel in the wonder and the beauty of the artwork. But behind each act of creation there lies pain and a feeling of mute lament. The artist silently wails and moans. This is so even in the case of the happiest of souls. For the inward slave driver is endlessly exacting and taxing. The path of creation is severe and stressful. And not all creation is successful. Much of it ends in failure or fiasco. But some of it works.

Art that is successful provides a release. Along with that release, for a time, come feelings of calm, comfort, peace and tranquillity. The artist experiences a cool euphoric joy after the perspiring heat of strenuous and often thankless conception and execution. The audience for the artwork experiences something of the same. The audience sees or hears in the artwork a vicarious discharge of anxiety and tension. The promise of art is the momentary emancipation from the blood, sweat and tears of creation. The artist sweats for us all.

Peter Murphy
Professor of Creative Arts
and Social Aesthetics
*Head of the School of Creative Arts
James Cook University*

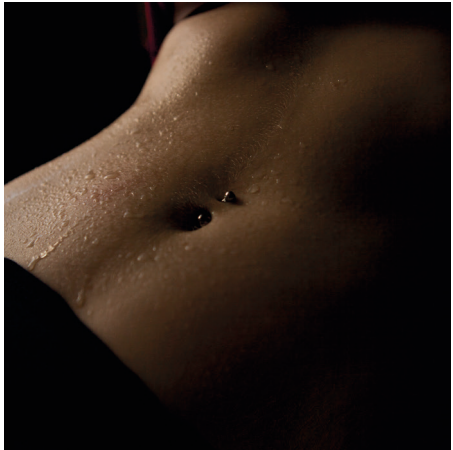


Steve Campbell

5 Original Audio Soundtracks
No Sweat

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This work presents the opportunity to experiment and try out visual materials to suit a selected soundtrack (or vice versa) - to find the complements and the conflicts between the audio and visuals provided. The cool watery themes in both audio and visuals reflect the title *No Sweat*.



Nam Enever

Digital Image
Thermoregulation

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Water beads of salt.
Silky ribbons of liquid reaction caused by the friction of heated nerve endings under exertion.
Thermoregulation.
Emotional stimuli provoking a simple, physiological response, over the entire body surface autonomously of ambient temperature. Specific behaviours are elicited from those exposed to the heady aroma of pheromones. Sweat.



Katja Fleischmann

Mixed Media
Sense of place inside out

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Architecture, vegetation, light, smells, foods or people's clothing can contribute to creating a sense of place. From 'outside', the tropics are commonly associated with palm trees, white sandy beaches, turquoise blue water and bright sunlight. The tropics 'inside' are a social product with particular locales, shared experiences and meaning-places await to be explored.



Richard Gillespie

Scarves and Paper Pulp
Bandanna

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When I moved to the tropics I suffered heat rash until an old carpenter suggested I wear a cotton scarf. Cured! I've worn one ever since. Scarves are an accessory providing a je ne sais quoi to a tShirt. My astrological sign, Taurus, rules the throat and the symbol for Taurus could be a knotted scarf.



Robyn Glade-Wright

Tennis Rackets, Feathers
Game Over

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Game Over commemorates the extinction of the Paradise Parrot which laid its eggs in termite mounds. The termite mounds were used to construct rammed earth tennis courts contributing to the loss of habitat of the birds.

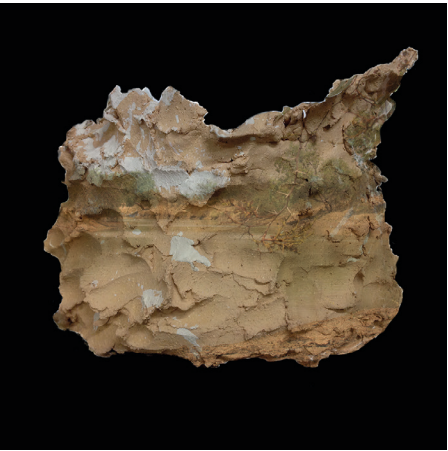


Kirsten Heritage

Digital Image
Light Dance VII

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My creative work blurs the line between reality and the world of our dreams. By emphasizing aesthetics, I examine the dynamics of landscape, including what the physical environment may mean to the viewer. Rather than presenting a factual reality, an illusion is fabricated to conjure the realms of our imagination; a link between the landscape's reality and that imagined by its conceiver. Time and memory play a key role. Who are we? Where are we? The light; the heat; the sweat.

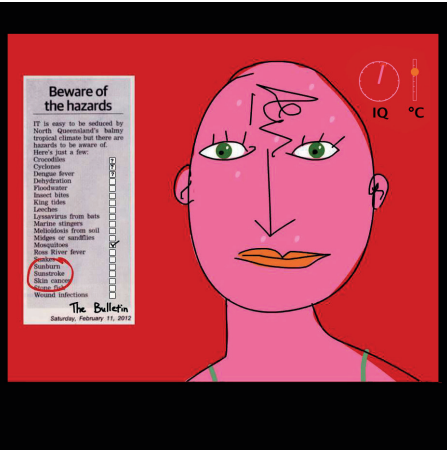


Anne Lord

Digital Projection on Clay Pot
Water: no sweat

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The title suggests that for some people water is not an issue. These words are also reflective: in a comedie noire, ignorant waste is black humor. These projections on clay are snippets of water taken from various perspectives, in order to ask, what is water to people, animals and places?



Sally Pryor

Digital Comic | Assemblage
Tropicality 1.2 | Sweat Equity

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Art presents rather than represents (Klee). *Sweat Equity* is an assemblage bringing together our show's theme, a domestic accident and a meditation on academic life. *Tropicality 1.2* is an animated digital comic; an ongoing exploration of a southerner's encounter with the physical challenges of tropical life – heat, sun, stingers, and yes, sweat.



David Salisbury

Audio Soundtracks
Umbrella | Tropscore, the Exchange

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Two recent original scores. *Umbrella* uses soundscapes and loops, evolving over time to include percussion, piano, wind and sting sounds in a promo for the revered local arts organisation. *Tropscore, the Exchange* uses a variety of instrumentation and textures to highlight the tension and suspense of a Matt Bird, Tropfest film.

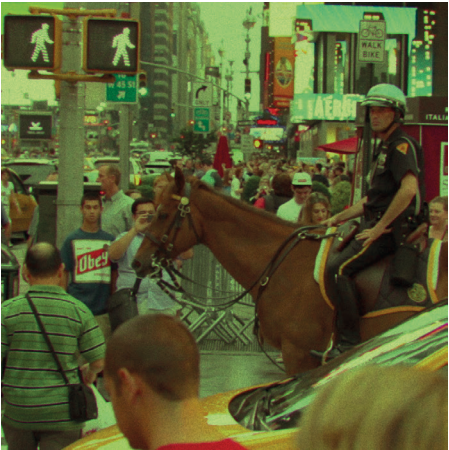


Jacqueline Scotcher

Synthetic Polymers & Mixed Media on Canvas
Winter Drive No.2

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The winter just past was my third living in Northern Queensland. The seasonal memories including big blue skies, cane trains and clean air are layered with each passing year. *Winter Drive No.2* explores these memories in terms of paint and captures my emotive response to the surrounding landscape during a tropical winter.



Ben van Houts

Video and Giclée
Spaces

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Time Square is a frenzy of foot traffic and cars, both competing for the same space. Don't sweat it if you find this all too over whelming. Now compare this to the open spaces of the Grand Canyon National Park with its grand vistas that a photo can't do justice. Every time you engage with the works you're bound to see something different.



Ann Vardanega

iPhone digital images
Sweat

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The storm clouds bring with them the promise of rain and relief from the overwhelming heat. I look forward to the Monsoon season, with both trepidation for the heat and humidity that it brings, and excitement in the expectation of the amazing show of colour and form that accompanies it.